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DE RUEHSO #0761 1940928  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 130928Z JUL 06  
FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5393  
INFO RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 6481  
RUEHRG/AMCONSUL RECIFE 3034  
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO 7256  
RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 2674  
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 2347  
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 2072  
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 2910  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL  
RUEAWJC/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC  
RUEABND/DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMIN HQ WASHDC

UNCLAS SAO PAULO 000761

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR DS/IP/WHA, DS/ICI/PII, DS/DSS/OSAC, WHA/BSC  
NSC FOR CRONIN  
DEA FOR OEL/DESGANTIS AND NIRL/LEHRER  
DEPT ALSO FOR WHA/PDA, DRL/PHD, INL, DS/IP/WHA, DS/DSS/ITA  
BRASILIA FOR RSO AND LEGAT; RIO DE JANEIRO FOR RSO  
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV PHUM KCRM SOCI SNAR ASEC BR

SUBJECT: INCREASED OVERNIGHT VIOLENCE IN SAO PAULO LIKELY DUE TO  
GANG LEADER ARREST

REF: Sao Paulo 751 and Previous

¶1. Sao Paulo's slow burn of violence directed against prison and police officials by the organized criminal gang PCC over the past weeks flared during the early morning hours of July 12. Reminiscent of the beginning of the violence unleashed on Sao Paulo and neighboring cities in mid-May by the PCC, though on a much smaller scale, when civilians as well as police were targeted, six persons were killed, police stations attacked, and buses and bank facilities burned. Traffic and business operations throughout the city, however, were mostly unaffected. This new wave of violence seems to have been sparked by the arrest earlier that same night of Emivaldo Silva Santos (known by the nickname BH), thought to be the "general" of the PCC in the ABC district of Sao Paulo (southeastern industrial suburbs) down to the coastal cities of Santos and Guaruja. The violence could also be in response to discussion of a possible government plan to isolate incarcerated PCC leaders in the new maximum security federal prison in Cantanduvas, Parana.

¶2. News sources reported up to 53 targets and 48 attacks as of 1:30 pm. The following is the tally of the overnight/morning violence:

-- Six dead: a military policeman and his sister were killed at his house in the northern part of the city; three private security guards were killed in separate incidents in the coastal city of Guaruja; and a prison guard's 24 year-old son, an aspiring professional soccer player, was gunned down.

-- At least nine police/Municipal Guard facilities were attacked throughout the greater metro area, usually drive-by shootings.

-- At least 16 buses were burned in locations scattered throughout the greater metro area and Santos.

-- Seven bank agencies were burned (damaged by Molotov cocktails), often in ATM areas.

-- Two supermarkets, closed at the time, were attacked and burned, a new tactic for the PCC. Criminals left notes on supermarket doors denouncing "prison oppression."

-- Two used car dealerships were broken into and heavily damaged, another new tactic perhaps used to divert police attention.

¶3. Comment: Local authorities have no indication whether the violence will continue at the current level, grow, or subside. Post is monitoring the situation closely and will continue to report. End Comment.

MCMULLEN